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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women

Statement submitted by Christian Children's Fund, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

07-64990 (E) 170108

Statement

Inclusion of girls affected by armed forces or groups in non-discriminatory demobilization, disarmament and reintegration program financing

The theme of the fifty-second session of the Commission, "Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women," presents an opportunity for addressing the reintegration needs and concerns of girls, who are or have been associated with armed forces and groups, through an empowerment approach.

We recognize the greater international awareness and attention being given to the needs of children recruited and exploited by armed forces and groups. We commend efforts by the Office of the Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF, and civil society in their advocacy for these children, particularly for girls. We are encouraged by the development of international standards and institutions such as the Optional Protocol on Children and Armed Conflict, Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the Paris Principles: Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups.

However, we remain concerned that little attention has been focused on the special needs and concerns of girls affected by armed forces and groups. Their presence is overlooked in conflict and post-conflict situations, even though the girl child is the most vulnerable entity, not only because of her age, but also due to her higher risk of experiencing gender discrimination, gender-based violence, and social stigmatization.

As nations transition into peace processes, girls face new challenges. Due to severe and consistent lack of girl child inclusive and gender appropriate demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration (DDR) programs, many girls remain isolated and unable to reintegrate into their societies. As funding is regularly allotted for males within the pre-existing mechanisms of DDR, girls are systematically isolated from vital support systems, such as livelihood support, skills training, and mental health and psychosocial support.

Their isolation goes hand in hand with their invisibility, stemming from the stigma associated with girls' recruitment. The girl soldier remains hidden, partly due to the fact that her role as a soldier is varied and unrecognized. Her roles may include: armed fighter, combat trainer, spy, informant, wife forced into forced marriage, sex slave, nurse, looter, messenger, and food gatherer/cook. Girls who fill these roles remain invisible to governments, UN entities, and NGOs, though it should be presumed that the girl soldier exists in all armed conflicts. Because formerly recruited girls are so badly stigmatized, it is essential to create program supports that do not add to their stigma. In some situations, it can be harmful to identify formerly recruited girls. Girls' reintegration cannot be done in a 'one size fits all' model. Rather, reintegration approaches must be flexible and tailored to fit the local context.

Often, the definition of girls affected by armed forces and groups excludes refugees, internally displaced persons, and girls who witnessed or were victims of gender-based violence and other war-related atrocities. Reintegration supports become discriminatory and divisive when they are extended only to girls who had been recruited. It is important to extend appropriate supports to all girls affected by armed conflict, regardless of whether they had been recruited. Health care and services are pivotal to the full reintegration of girls affected by conflict into their societies. Many girl soldiers and girls affected by armed conflict suffer from HIV/AIDS and post-pregnancy and other reproductive health issues. Without the inclusion of gender-based health care and education for girls in DDR programming, girls are unable to fully integrate into society and become productive mothers, citizens, and promoters of peace.

Traditional DDR programs have sometimes prevented the protection and gender development needs of girls affected by fighting forces. Even when access to rehabilitation programs is available to girls, many girls avoid them because of their public nature and resulting ostracization and isolation from other children and the community. Many girls also refrain from joining traditional DDR programs due to age and gender insensitive environments. Though steps have been taken to improve DDR processes — such as DPKO's establishment of child protection officers in UN missions and the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), calling for greater incorporation of a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations and DDR — this progress calls for better implementation and monitoring mechanisms during conflict and in DDR processes to ensure that financing is bestowed upon efforts for girls as well as boys. Governments, UN agencies, and NGOs need to ensure that DDR processes and programs address girl soldiers' gender-specific and highly sensitive needs, both during and post conflict, and gender specification in formal DDR processes.

The Paris Principles, aimed at preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers and offering mechanisms for their sustainable reintegration into their societies, outline the need for gender representation in DDR processes. These include:

> *"From the planning stage onwards, through the design of eligibility criteria and screening procedures for inclusion in release and reintegration programs and informal release processes through to programming for reintegration, monitoring and follow-up, actors should recognize that girls are at risk of being 'invisible' and take measures to ensure that girls are included and relevant issues addressed at all stages."*
> (Paris Principles, paragraph 40)

> *"Peace agreements should include specific provision for the needs of children, including the particular needs of girls and any children they have or will have as a result of their association with an armed force or armed group. Such provision should explicitly include financial and other resources required for programs to support the swift and safe release."*
> (Paris Principles, paragraph 7.12)

> *"Life skills programming should be sensitive to the particular challenges faced by girls upon reintegration."*
> (Paris Principles, paragraph 7.83.7)

> *"Families may expect girls to provide an income, which may result in them being sexually exploited. Girls need to be protected from such exploitation through advocacy with communities, educational and vocational skills training and the provision of alternative economic strategies."*
> (Paris Principles, paragraph 7.64)

Implementing the recommendations of the Paris Principles requires reforming traditional DDR programs to include programs for girl soldiers and other girls affected by conflict, including the sustainable integration of girls into their societies with the aid of financing for gender development and empowerment. A commitment to financing such reintegration should include the following:

- Funding must be structured and focused on DDR for girl soldiers. Steps must be taken to allocate financing, at least, proportionally to the number of girls represented in fighting forces and affected by armed conflict. Provisions should be made for girl mothers and their children, who often suffer a double stigma.

- Gender-based financing must be coupled with gender-appropriate programs, which should be implemented in a manner which ensures that financing is being utilized as advantageously as possible and that the girls are being fully and comprehensively reintegrated into their communities. To be effective, funding must be flexible and long-term. Too often, reintegration funding is structured in one-year tranches.

- Gender equity must be maintained, which includes not just financing, but also how the funds are spent and utilized on girls in their communities.

- DDR programming for girls should include culturally appropriate livelihood support, which is essential in avoiding sexual exploitation and enabling girls to achieve positive roles in society.

- Health-care and other health-related services are pivotal to the full reintegration of girls into their societies. Without the inclusion of gender-based health care and education programmes for girls in DDR, including psychosocial support, HIV/AIDS counselling and treatment, and education, girls will be unable to fully integrate into society.

- Children and youth, particularly girls, should be a part of peace processes in post-conflict countries and should play an active and meaningful role in the formation of relevant programming and policy implementation.

- Governments, with the assistance of UN agencies and NGOs, should establish, implement and mainstream girl-friendly programming and policies in all spheres of society, such as education, livelihoods, and health.

- Multi-sectoral, community-based and traditional mechanisms of protection should be utilized and supported to ensure and encourage the reintegration of girls in such mechanisms. Effective protection is needed to avoid re-recruitment and other forms of exploitation and to ensure the fulfilment of girls' rights. Community engagement is vital because, ultimately, reintegration is a community as well as individual process.

- Reintegration efforts should be accompanied by wider efforts to support women and girls' empowerment and gender equity at a societal level.

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Statement submitted by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

07-65014 (E) 210108

Statement

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), among the first group of non-governmental organizations to receive consultative status with the United Nations, has monitored every session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The fifty-second session offers an opportunity for Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the goals of women's empowerment, human rights and gender equality, goals WILPF has continually worked towards since its inception in 1915 as part of its ongoing work to prevent armed conflict and to establish the conditions for sustainable peace on a global scale.

WILPF recognizes the many commitments expressed by Member States and applauds the concrete achievements by governments and the UN system towards realizing equality between women and men as outlined in the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations. Unfortunately, a significant gap between policy and practice still remains. We look forward to the Commission's addressing the persistent gaps in implementing policy commitments, particularly to the role played by the failure to allocate adequate human and economic resources to the implementation of gender equality goals.

WILPF looks forward to Member States' evaluation of their prior commitments on "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding." While laudable work is being undertaken, particularly through efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), much remains to be done. Women remain excluded from or marginalized in decision-making on the full spectrum of security issues, within peace processes and within the UN system itself.

In the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, it is unclear whether commitments to include women in peacebuilding have made a practical difference on the ground. While there is a lack of demonstrated political will to ensure women's participation, more tangible still is the poor commitment of resources to these issues, despite agreement at the forty-eighth session to "continue to make resources available nationally and internationally for prevention of conflict and ensure women's participation in the elaboration and implementation of strategies for preventing conflict."

WILPF thus welcomes the Commission's consideration of the important theme of Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. In developing policy in this area, it is critical that clear and strong connections be drawn between this and the realization of all other commitments to development and gender equality made by the Commission and Member States; including commitments to women's full and equal participation. It is not simply that women have the right to participate as equals. It is also that without women's participation and empowerment and without gender equality, sustainable peace, sustainable development and true human security are unattainable.

As former Secretary-General Kofi Annan articulated:

> "study after study has taught us that there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women .... And I would also venture that no policy is more important in preventing conflict, or in achieving reconciliation after a conflict has ended."[1]

WILPF welcomed the recognition of the links between participation, equality and development in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. In particular, WILPF welcomed the recognition that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and outcome of the twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly "is an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration." This contribution is not possible without resources and gender-centered financing policy. The failure to finance gender equality is the failure to finance development and human security.

The consideration of Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment requires providing direct, sustained and increased financial and human resources to discrete budget lines, and support to women's groups and organizations. It is, however, critical also to look beyond this level and type of support. Financing for Gender Equality is not just about adding more resources to existing efforts. It is also about how resources are spent by government in the economy as a whole. WILPF welcomes the work done by some governments to engage in gender responsive budgeting and calls on all governments to do so and to enhance these efforts. This involves not only analysing the differential impact of government spending on men and women but also offers a means to critically reflect on government spending priorities and to prioritize human security and gender equality.

WILPF finds it unacceptable that despite the many commitments made to gender equality and women's empowerment, the figures tell a different story:

- Women make up 70 percent of the world's poor and 67% of the world's illiterate. They own just one per cent of assets worldwide;[2]
- According to a 1995 UNDP study, more than two-thirds of the world's unpaid work is done by women – the equivalent of $11 trillion (approximately half of the world's GDP);
- Out of $69 billion of overseas development assistance in 2003, only $2.5 billion, or 3.6%, was earmarked for gender equality as a significant or principal objective.[3] Yet, in the three year period from 2002 to 2004, US military aid to Israel alone totaled over $9 billion with another $6 billion to Egypt and $4 billion to Pakistan;[4]

[1] United Nations Press Release SG/SM/9738, WOM/1489, 25 Feb 2005.
[2] UNIFEM, World Poverty Day 2007, Investing in Women – Solving the Poverty Puzzle, (2007).
[3] Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit, *Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers' Meeting: Policy Brief*, (2007).
[4] *Collateral Damage*, The Center for Public Integrity, (2007) http://www.publicintegrity.org/militaryaid/regions.aspx.

- Of $20 billion in bilateral aid in 2001-2005, an OECD DAC study reports only $5 billion was allocated to projects promoting gender equality; the cost of approximately 2 weeks of the occupation of Iraq;[5]
- The combined budgets of the UN women's entities is only $65 million,[6] only 0.005% of world military expenditure of $1.204 trillion in 2006;[7]
- The entire budget of the only operational women's entity – UNIFEM – in 2006 was only $57 million, only 2 % of the $2.34 billion budget of UNICEF for the same period;[8]
- The World Bank estimates the cost of interventions to promote gender equality under MDG 3 is $7-13 per capita. The world's military expenditure in 2006 amounted to $184 per capita.[9]

What is clear is that in scales that matter, commitments to gender equality are not yet real. No amount of policy will make a difference unless: gender equality is seen as a critical part of public finance management; is factored into macroeconomic policy and development financing; and is seen as more important than weapons.

WILPF calls on Member States:

- To invest in human security, equality and sustainable peace and to end the prioritization of war and military spending and the impunity enjoyed by war and weapons profiteers.[10]
- To strengthen the development and human rights work of the United Nations by strengthening and better resourcing its gender equality architecture as a critical aspect of financing for gender equality.
- To include women as senior decision-makers in economic and trade policy, including through ensuring their input in the decision-making of supra-national institutions, such as the World Trade Organization and Bretton Woods Institutions. WILPF calls on Member States to provide mechanisms by which women are guaranteed an opportunity to contribute input into the decision-making processes of these institutions at a local level and that these take account of the needs of gender equality and women's empowerment.
- To pressure the Security Council to implement Article 26 of the United Nations Charter, which charges it with formulating a system to regulate armaments and reduce military expenditures, in order to promote international peace and security and free up human and economic resources for development.
- To participate in the UN Register of Conventional Arms in order to enhance transparency of international arms transfers, procurement through national production, holdings, and relevant policies, and in the UN Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures to enhance

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[5] Congressional Research Service, *Report for US Congress, The Cost of Iraq, Afghanistan and other Global War on Terror Operations since 9/11*, (2007), RL33110.

[6] Resource Guide for Gender Theme Groups, Jan. 2005.

[7] SIPRI, Recent Trends in Military Expenditure, http://www.sipri.org/contents/milap/milex/mex_trends.html.

[8] UNIFEM UNICEF Annual Reports 2006.

[9] SIPRI, Recent Trends in Military Expenditure, http://www.sipri.org/contents/milap/milex/mex_trends.html.

[10] 1995 UNDP.

transparency of spending on military personnel, operations, maintenance, procurement, construction, research, and development.

WILPF looks forward to the development of policy during this fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women that will ensure a gender-perspective in the 2008 follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development in Qatar and the follow-up to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in Ghana.

As a 92-year old organization, WILPF continues to work toward collective human security and sustainable peace and away from militarism and economic violence, in collaboration with civil society, governmental and international actors, including within the UN system. We look forward to working with others from around the world to dismantle the prevailing culture of militarism and create a culture of peace in which gender inequality, racism and discrimination, economic injustice, violence and oppression are absent and in which women are full and equal participants.

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07-65020 (E) 090108

Statement submitted by Rotary International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

Statement

Rotary's 1.2 million members in 200 countries and geographic areas are actively working to meet the goals of the 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Rotary clubs worldwide develop projects that financially encourage gender equality and empower girls and women.

Rotary clubs support and empower girls and women in their communities by providing access to economic and social development through education, literacy, numeracy, information technology and job training programs. In addition, Rotary's health projects, clean water efforts, agricultural development, and other programs positively impact women worldwide. Rotary also offers equal access to its clubs, projects, youth exchange, scholarships, and group study exchange programs.

Rotary works to create a world where everyone has access to safety, economic independence and education. Rotary clubs on every continent create projects that benefit all people, especially girls and women.

Rotary clubs, as well as Rotaract (ages 18-30) and Interact (ages 14-18) clubs, in all parts of the world develop projects that promote gender equality. These projects work to provide shelter, education, and resources that enrich the lives of women and children.

For example:

- Through a US$500,000 Rotary Health, Hunger, and Humanity Grant, Rotary members launched a microcredit project in Honduras. Some 96 percent of its loans have been given to women, allowing them to start their own businesses, including a small bakery and a small company selling soy products.
- Rotary clubs in Accra-Labone, Uganda and Ojai, California, USA combined resources to create a refuge and vocational training centre for girls living on the street in Accra. They have also implemented a program to help the girls start baking or catering businesses.
- A Rotary club in India obtained a Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation to provide wheeled carts to local widows, who often had difficulty earning an income to support themselves. These carts enabled them to sell fruit and vegetables, and crafts on the street.

These Rotary projects are among many that help to financially empower girls and women around the world.

Rotary will continue to encourage its members to develop projects to address the needs of women in their communities, and to provide women with access to education, economic and social development and healthcare. Rotary works to ensure that its programs and projects truly benefit all the world's citizens.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. There are approximately 1.2 million Rotary members of more than 32,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographic areas.

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Statement submitted by Baptist World Alliance, Concerned Women for America, Eagle Forum, Endeavour Forum, Franciscans International, International Right to Life Federation, JMJ Children's Fund of Canada, Real Women of Canada, Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, World Movement of Mothers, Worldwide Organization for Women, World Youth Alliance, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

07-65026 (E) 210108

Statement

Thank you for this opportunity to explain the importance of the Billings Ovulation Method of natural fertility regulation, BOM for short, for the health of women everywhere, and why the UN should be actively promoting the teaching of it.

In 1994 the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) stated in its Cairo Report that "under no circumstances should abortion be used as a method of family planning." In spite of this the main thrust of many at the UN since that time has been to seek funding to achieve the exact opposite, namely to have abortion proclaimed as a human right in any circumstances and to hold countries accountable if they do not provide free access to it. On the other hand there is another group at the UN, women like ourselves, who know that abortion is harmful to women, harmful to society and unnecessary for family planning. The Billings Ovulation Method of natural fertility regulation is a simple, effective and cost-free method of either achieving or avoiding pregnancy without resort to chemicals or devices. With its use babies are welcomed and loved and the issue of abortion does not arise.

The promotion of abortion on demand comes at the expense of scientific truth. Suddenly biology text books are changed to state that life no longer begins at fertilization of the ovum but at implantation of the embryo in the endometrium of the uterus instead. This enables promoters to argue that IUDs, the "pill" and other contraceptive medication are not abortifacients. This is manifestly untrue since the endometrium is directly affected by the action of IUDs and by estrogen and progesterone contained in the "pill." Furthermore contraceptive medication does not always suppress ovulation and the resulting undesired pregnancy usually leads to an abortion. Many women who have had abortions learn too late about the consequences: depression, low self esteem, and the damaging effect on their children and marital relationship. In addition to such psychological harm there is actual physical damage: fertility is reduced because the "pill" ages the cervix and increases the risk of cervical cancer. A recent study in Oxford University demonstrates that there is "irrefutable" proof that the likelihood of developing cervical cancer increases with the use of the contraceptive pill (i). Government health warnings should be attached to the "pill" as is the case in many countries for tobacco products. The risk of breast cancer is also increased because the surge in estrogen in the breast cells in the first trimester of pregnancy can result in tumorous action when there is an unnatural termination of the pregnancy which leaves the breast cells in an immature "pregnant" state (ii). Naturally women are devastated by such consequences and angry that they were not warned of the possible risks beforehand, or of the simple way such risks could have been avoided.

The BOM suffers from one huge disadvantage; there is no profit in it for pharmaceutical companies. In fact it is a threat to the profits derived from sale of the pill and other contraceptive devices. So it is in no-one's self interest to promote it. Our mission is simply to make all women aware of this safe and natural method which is embraced by all who learn of it since it is acceptable in all cultures and religions, cost-free, simple to understand and effective at all stages of a woman's reproductive life: adolescence, breastfeeding, pre-menopause and

recovering from emotional and physical stress. It was developed by Drs. John and Evelyn Billings of Australia fifty-five years ago (iii) and validated by Prof. Erik Odeblad (emeritus), a medical bio-physicist, and Professor James Brown, (iv) (v) world renowned for his research on estrogen and progesterone. The latter has conducted nearly a million hormonal essays which provide a wealth of information about women's fertility cycles that he collated in "The Continuum." Likewise, Odeblad has become the world's leading expert on the complexities of the tiny cervix, which is as complicated as the human eye. He studied the way estrogen affects the production of a secretion, vital for sperm survival and transportation, that women notice just as they go about their daily activities and are able to chart according to the BOM's four commonsense guidelines. In spite of the sad death of Dr. John Billings this year, research is ongoing through the Ovulation Method Research and Reference Centre of Australia (OMR&RCA) and can be reviewed on the website: http://www.woomb.org.

China is the prime example of the dramatic drop in the rate of abortion when the authentic Billings Ovulation Method is taught. China now has thousands of accredited teachers and "Billings" has become a household name. In a huge study of couples published in the Chinese Medical Journal in 1998 (vi) only five misunderstood the rules of the Method and became pregnant by the end of the year's study. These five continued to use the Method once the rules they broke were pointed out to them. There was a 99.5% user effectiveness rate when the intention was to avoid pregnancy. Many couples were also successful in using the method to achieve pregnancy. Indeed, Billings teachers all over the world find that they are as frequently consulted to help couples who are having difficulty achieving pregnancy. In 2006 Australian teachers found a 78% effectiveness rate in those couples referred to them because of difficulties in conceiving.

In conclusion, we live in a world in which concerns are mounting over such issues as the impact of increased estrogen in the water systems on the virility of fish; birth rates below population replacement levels in many countries; breakdown of the family as the basic unit of society; condom use touted as a way to reduce HIV/AIDs when only marital fidelity to a life-time partner or abstinence will eradicate it; high cost of abortion leading to the channeling of funds away from real unmet needs of women, especially refugees who are supplied with abortion kits instead of food and water for their families. Many of these issues could be eliminated altogether if there was UN and government political will to make sure women are given the chance to learn the Billings Ovulation Method and to eliminate funding for "reproductive health," the euphemism for abortion. S.Fryer, e-mail: jandsfryer@shaw.ca.

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Statement submitted by the Altrusa International; Armenian International Women's Association; Associated Country Women of the World; Baha'i International Community; International Alliance of Women; International Association of Women in Radio and Television; International Council of Women; International Federation of Business and Professional Women; International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres; International Federation of University Women; International Federation of Women in Legal Careers; International Federation of Women Lawyers; National Council of Women of the United States; Pan Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Organization; Soroptimist International; Trickle Up Program; United Nations Association of the United States of America; United States Committee for UNIFEM; Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund; World Young Women's Christian Association; Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

07-65032 (E) 170108

Statement

We, the undersigned international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, all members of the NGO Committee on UNIFEM, direct your attention to the outstanding leadership of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in the theme of the discussions for the Commission on the Status of Women, "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women".

UNIFEM has played a leading role in promoting gender-responsive budget analysis on the national level. Budgets represent a financial translation of a government's policies and priorities, moving promised commitments to actual resource allocation. Gender budgets are not separate budgets for women and do not aim solely to increase spending on women-specific programmes.

In 2006, UNIFEM has worked with more than thirty countries to promote the application of gender responsive budget development that focuses on how government expenditures and revenues have different impacts on men and women, highlighting inequalities in areas such as income, assets, decision-making power, services needed and social responsibilities for care that need to be addressed. An important aspect of this process has been to make women's work, much of which is unpaid, economically visible. Gender inequality has also been a factor in major losses to economic efficiency and human development. The analysis of national budgets with the gender lens that UNIFEM has provided has assisted governments to adjust their policies and reallocate resources to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. Developing disaggregated data of age and sex in national statistics would help to show that progress is being made.

In Mozambique, UNIFEM's gender-responsive budgeting efforts identified gender disparities in the country's poverty reduction strategy. Responding to the voices of women's organizations for a need to focus more resources on eradication of violence against women, UNIFEM worked with government officials to ensure that public expenditures on health and violence included a gender perspective.

UNIFEM and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) produced two publications-a training manual to further understanding of gender-responsive budgeting as a tool for promoting women's rights and a resource pack which gives advice on how to employ gender budgeting techniques into national policy frameworks to advance specific needs.

UNIFEM's Local Level Gender Responsive Budgets program has targeted the level where the delivery of services and resources are carried out. UNIFEM has sponsored workshops for governments and local officials on gender responsive budgeting. These meetings make elected representatives and civil servants aware of the potential of a gender perspective in budgeting. One such initiative in Mysore, India prompted an initiative by an elected representative that resulted in a free medical clinic for local residents who previously had to walk five miles and wait two days to see a doctor at a private hospital...

Gender budget analysis has been a valuable tool for UNIFEM in promoting the rights-based approach which is central to all its work. Gender-responsive budget analysis is a way to hold governments

accountable for their commitments to women's human rights and gender equality, such as the Beijing *Platform for Action* and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), by linking these commitments to the distribution, use and generation of public resources.

Within the UN system, UNIFEM has worked to show that gender responsive budgets are a means of strengthening economic governance throughout the world, engaging members of civil society, particularly women who are often excluded, in debate on political and economic policy. Education and information are crucial to the confidence building and participation of women and girls.

UNIFEM has also promoted regional and global advocacy in the area of gender responsive budgeting. In 2001 when UNIFEM co-convened the first consultation on gender budgeting in Brussels, few countries had experience with gender budgeting; today more than seventy do. At that conference, collaborating with the European Union and other European entities, the implementation of gender responsive budgets by 2015 was endorsed. Ministries of Finance and Women's Divisions from the East African Region have also called for policies that consider gender aspects in budgeting allocating resources.

The activities of UNIFEM described in the area of financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women are just one aspect of its critical work to strengthen and promote the rights and participation of women throughout the world.

UNIFEM has also assumed a central leadership role in promoting the rights and needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations and is, therefore, also vitally interested in the review theme for the 2008 CSW, "Women's participation in conflict prevention, management, conflict resolution and post-conflict peace-building." UNIFEM, in partnership with several NGOs, was in the forefront of advocacy for the adoption of the landmark Security Council resolution #1325 on women, peace and security. This resolution recognizes the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, calls for the full implementation of humanitarian human rights laws to protect women and girls during and after conflict, directs attention to the special needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, singles out protection against gender-based violence, especially rape, and requests that the Secretary General conduct a study including data on women and girls in armed conflict. UNIFEM has been monitoring the implementation of this resolution in conflict areas around the world. UNIFEM has created a web portal WomenWarPeace.org that summarizes UNIFEM's work in different conflict countries, and provides gender profiles for each country as well as information on issues and challenges of women and girls in those countries. UNIFEM will have valuable contributions to provide to these discussions regarding progress on implementation, challenges and promising practices in building partnerships for gender justice in post-conflict situations.

For more than thirty years, UNIFEM's leadership in promoting rights for women and girls has created substantial change in their economic, political and social opportunities. UNIFEM will continue to address the difficult and multifaceted discrimination that women and girls around the world face every day working with many partners at all levels toward the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. We wholeheartedly endorse their efforts.

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Statement submitted by Womankind Worldwide, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

07-65228 (E) 160108

Statement

WOMANKIND Worldwide[1] (WK) is an international women's human rights and development organisation working in partnership with 32 partners in 14 countries around the world to tackle gender inequality and improve the status of women. WOMANKIND Worldwide is firmly committed to ensuring that adequate and sufficient resources are made available by donors and governments to ensure that fundamental commitments made by the international community in international instruments such as the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment are met.

WOMANKIND's view of the aid environment

Over the past 20 years WOMANKIND has observed the changes taking place in the international aid environment through its work with its partner organisations in the global South and our own position as a Northern based NGO receiving funds from donors and government. In the last 5-6 years, we have been particularly concerned with understanding better the impact of the Paris Declaration and new aid modalities on organisations working for gender equality and women's empowerment in particular.

As a lead member of the UK Gender & Development Network[2], we carried out research[3] with organisations in the South to see whether the widely-held assumption that new aid modalities had real potential for gender mainstreaming and ensuring women's empowerment and rights held true. Our research included organisations from Asia, Latin America and Africa and ranged from very small grass roots organisations to much larger NGOs. Unsurprisingly therefore, the picture that emerged is a very diverse one. The way new aid modalities have been implemented varies greatly from continent to continent and country to country, with Africa being the continent where they are most advanced and organisations in Africa clearly articulating the impact this has had on them.

Overall it became clear that funding has increased for gender advocacy related work, and that this has gone hand in hand with a reduction in funding for service delivery work. It reveals that many women's organisations and those focused on challenging gender inequality feel that their work is under threat as the focus of funding moves in the direction of larger grants, tighter, short term targets, demonstrable and 'scaled up' results, and intensive administration.

Some of the key emerging issues that the report highlights are the lack of understanding many NGOs have about the wider aid context and the changing donor funding structures; the lack of attention donors are apparently paying to monitoring and understanding the impact their changes in approach are having on the NGO sector in each country; the fear or the reality of being marginalised by new

[1] See www.womankind.org.uk to find out more about our work

[2] See www.gadnetwork.org.uk to find out more about its work

[3] *Women's Rights and Gender Equality – The new Aid Environment and Civil Society Organisations.* For a copy of the report please go to the WOMANKIND website www.womankind.org.uk

funding mechanisms; and the clear lack of attention to gender equality and women's empowerment in many of the current aid mechanisms.

While donors talk about gender, and do enable some good gender work at the level of policy and lobbying work in some countries, the key aid modalities do not currently prioritise or really address the needs of those organisations and social movements working to address gender inequalities and promote women's rights. Indeed, the research highlights many worrying signs that aspects of the new aid modalities are further marginalising and excluding organisations committed to women's empowerment and the promotion of their human rights from reliable, long term funding.

WOMANKIND's recommendations

Overall WOMANKIND Worldwide believes it is vital that the international community renews its commitment to key agreements and international documents such as CEDAW, the BPFA and the MDGs and uses a joint approach to implementing them rather than looking at development goals and targets in isolation from international women's rights commitments. We have also identified 2 key areas for future action and research. The first one is the need to monitor the new aid environment, its tools and the impact they are having on actors involved and affected and ultimately on achieving gender equality and women's rights. The second one is in relation to the actual nature of the aid environment and calls for a diversification of the current approach to aid, both in terms of the activities/areas that are being funded as well as the types of organisations that are being funded.

Overall

1. Governments and donors should meaningfully include local, national and international civil society organisations (CSOs) in the disbursal of aid and debates in relation to this.

2. Governments and donors should honour international commitments to key agreements on women's rights and development such as the BPFA, CEDAW and the MDGs.

3. Governments and donors should commit adequate financial resources to implementing the above mentioned agreements. Governments also need to commit financial resources to gender commitments in documents such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

Monitor

1. Donors, governments and CSOs need to track carefully what funds are used to support women's rights or to help women out of poverty.

2. Donors need to systematically monitor the impact of changed funding streams, conditions and mechanisms on organisations working for gender equality and women's rights.

3. In particular, governments and donors need to monitor the funding available to CSOs by governments and the impact such funding has on the organisations and the work.

4. Donors and governments need to monitor the *implementation* of PRSPs and Sector Wide Approaches (SWAPs) in relation to their impact on gender equality and women's rights.

5. Performance Assessment Frameworks (PAFs) need to mainstream gender and should be monitored to measure progress.

6. The effect of the Paris Declaration and Direct Budgetary Support (DBS) on social development issues and rights, including the impact of these mechanisms on civil society, needs to be evaluated. It is an area where growing concern is evident but as yet data on what is actually happening is almost non-existent.

Diversify Aid

1. Donors and governments need to ensure that special funds are available for gender equality work in each country to ensure it is addressed and that smaller, activist women's organisations are enabled to continue their work.

2. Donors and governments should make available long-term funding for women's rights organisations.

3. Pooled funds need to integrate gender with clear adherence and monitoring criteria.

4. Funding needs to be diversified to ensure that the current focus on NGOs as instruments of advocacy does not exclude other work that is critical for women's rights and gender equality such as legal services, capacity building for women to participate in development, confidence building, and direct service delivery that addresses the barriers for access for women.

5. Donors need to establish funding mechanisms that are accessible to a wide range of CSOs, not only the strongest and largest and those involved in policy debates.

6. National Women's Machineries (NWMs) need to be adequately resourced to enable them to undertake their vital role of leading on national gender equality plans.

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Statement submitted by Endeavour Forum, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

07-65234 (E) 160108

Statement

Endeavor Forum supports the priority theme of the 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which focuses on "financing for gender equality and empowerment of women". The debate on the priority theme is timely given the fact that women and girls continue to be targets of negative gender equality and sex-selected discrimination. We find the topic of this session especially appropriate because the role of women continues to be crucial for the preservation of our society at large.

First of all, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute & United Nations Population Division report, 46 million women around the world have abortions each year. In a study of US and Russian women who had abortions, 64% said they felt pressured by others to abort. In other studies available, teen girls are 10 times more likely to attempt suicide if they have had an abortion in the last six months than girls who have not had an abortion, and 2-4 times more likely to commit suicide after abortion compared to adult women.

Over 2000 women have recently signed a sworn testimony that abortion hurts them physically, psychologically and spiritually. Abortion destroys a living human being who has rights, value, worth and dignity and severely damages the natural, maternal bonding instinct of women. This past year the United States' Supreme Court's ruling in the Partial Birth Abortion case, *Gonzales v. Carhart* upholding the federal ban on partial-birth abortion cited some of our sworn statements and recognized that "some women come to regret" having an abortion. The Court stated, "Whether to have an abortion requires a difficult and painful moral decision" and is "fraught with emotional consequence." The Court also noted that "Severe depression and loss of esteem can follow" an abortion (p. 28-29), citing the Brief filed by The Justice Foundation on behalf of Sandra Cano and 180 post-abortive women.

We wish to speak out on the negative gender equality and discrimination that sex-selected abortion causes against girls and women. We are a team of women made up of a body of leaders from various organizations across the US who are hosting workshops on the dangers that abortion can bring to girls and women. Our mission is to educate and empower women on the benefits of womanhood and motherhood and teach women how to be world changers. We are unique in that we all have personal stories related to abortion trauma.

Negative gender equality and discrimination to girls and women through the trauma of abortion is happening in several countries around the world. The problem of abortion hurting women is ignored by the government, media and our culture. We count ourselves as expert witnesses to the physical, emotional and psychological pain and suffering that abortion causes.

Cynthia Collins, a team member from Louisiana, TV Host and director of World Generation Outreach says that "it is alarming how these gruesome practices (forced abortion and female sex selected abortion) have spread to almost every corner of the globe."

Since both delegates and NGO officials are addressing gender equality and discrimination even before birth, Millie Lace, a team member from Arkansas, Licensed Professional Counselor and Director of the National Helpline for Abortion Recovery joins us in requesting governments of all nations to protect the earliest stages of life in order to ensure the empowerment of women and gender equality.

Each of our team members will pay their own expenses to NY and other important national and international conferences, which demonstrates our commitment to the cause of empowering women and ending discrimination against women and girls through abortion. We wish to be a voice of hope for the protection of gender equality and the empowerment of women. When governments and this commission can be educated on the trauma of abortion and its negative effect on gender equality, the discrimination can end and women will be empowered.

The CSW should call upon governments to strengthen their laws and enforcement against sex selected abortion and seek to finance alternatives to abortion that empower women. History has proven that our founding feminists were right. As Alice Paul so eloquently stated, "Abortion is the greatest exploitation against women."

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Statement submitted by Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

Gender equality continues to be a largely unrealized goal worldwide despite the existence of various international legal instruments, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and international agreements such as the Beijing Platform for Action. Financing for gender equality in legal and policy measures requires more than a commitment of equitable and necessary financial resources by governments, inter-governmental agencies and civil society. It necessitates changes in laws and policies, including financial and macroeconomic measures, which actively fuel gender inequality and women's disempowerment. One of the most profound examples of law or policy which severely impedes the attainment of gender equality is the tolerance, regulation, decriminalization and/or legalization of the sex industry, including the promotion of sex tourism. Commercial sexual exploitation is based in and reinforces "the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women." [1]

Male violence against women and girls is a significant barrier to achieving gender equality and empowerment. Among the most severe and escalating practices of gender-based violence is commercial sexual exploitation, including sex trafficking, prostitution, the Internet bride industry, pornography, and sex tourism. For example, traffickers, pimps and buyers exploit women and girls seeking to improve their lives through employment, migration or other opportunities. They treat them as commodities to be bought and sold and repeatedly violated by the countless buyers they must "service" through prostitution.

The proliferation of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation hinders women's advancement in the fields of education, health and work. Victims of sex trafficking and prostitution often suffer severe health consequences ranging from physical injuries inflicted by buyers, pimps and traffickers; psychological devastation, including trauma, depression, and suicide; HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases; and alcohol and drug abuse induced by pimps or women's attempts to avoid feeling violated. Women and girls suffering from these severe, long-term health problems are hindered in attaining equality and advancing their human rights.

Increasingly, many governments prioritize, through devastating economic policies, revenue and profit at the expense of human rights and gender equality. Rather than recognizing women's skills and contributions to society, governments have adopted policies effectively normalizing and, in some places, even legalizing the sex industry, with the explicit encouragement of inter-governmental organizations, such as the International Labor Organization (ILO), World Bank, and UNAIDS, leading to sexual violence and exploitation. For instance, in 1998, the ILO called for the economic recognition of the sex industry and its contribution to a country's gross domestic product.[2] Such recognition, in effect, could not occur without the legal acceptance of the sex industry. Similarly, UNAIDS has called

[1] UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, A/RES/48/104, 23 Feb. 1994.
[2] Lin Lean Lim, *The Sex Sector: the Economic and Social Bases of Prostitution in Southeast Asia*, ILO 1998.

for the decriminalization and regulation of all aspects of prostitution and related "sexual services," under the misguided guise of HIV/AIDS prevention.[3]

While these international agencies and some governments recognize that trafficking victims should be removed from the sex industry, they fail to acknowledge the enormous extent to which women and girls in the sex industry have been trafficked. The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of the victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children has concluded that:

> For the most part, prostitution as actually practised in the world usually does satisfy the elements of trafficking. It is rare that one finds a case in which the path to prostitution and/or a person's experiences within prostitution do not involve, at the very least, an abuse of power and/or an abuse of vulnerability. Power and vulnerability in this context must be understood to include power disparities based on gender, race, ethnicity and poverty. Put simply, the road to prostitution and the life within "the life" is rarely one marked by empowerment or adequate options.[4]

Although UNAIDS indicates that worldwide "many [persons in formal brothel-based or pimp-controlled prostitution] become involved while still children or young adolescents" as well as a good portion of persons who are prostituted on the streets or are involved in prostitution more sporadically,[5] they fail to appropriately categorize this high number of persons as trafficking victims, as defined by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The significant extent to which exploitation, particularly of children, occurs within the sex industry undermines the argument that prostitution should be labeled "sex work," and recognized as any other job. Additionally, it is a mistake to assume that those who were trafficked and sexually exploited as children are no longer trafficking victims but "voluntary workers" when they reach the age of 18 or that prostitution no longer poses the same harms to their well-being.

Further, several international agencies recognize that being used in prostitution exposes women and girls to a serious risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS and to extensive violence by buyers and pimps, such as when they try to negotiate safer sex practices.[6] However, these agencies fail to see these continuous and even lethal harms as severe enough to call for legal and other measures to discourage the demand, so as to eradicate the sex industry. Given the harms of prostitution, it is unacceptable that a sub-class of women and girls, who are often impoverished and marginalized in society, be deemed appropriate subjects to assume such risks.

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[3] UNAIDS, *Handbook for Legislators on HIV/AIDS, Law and Human Rights*, 1999 at 56. The World Bank endorses the conclusions of this UNAIDS *Handbook* in *Legal Aspects of HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Policy and Law Reform*, 2007. *See also* UNAIDS, *Sex Work and HIV/AIDS*, 2002.

[4] E/CN.4/2006/62, UN 2006.

[5] UNAIDS, *Sex Work and HIV/AIDS*, 2002 at 4. Similarly, the World Bank indicates that "Many adults entered [the sex industry] as children." World Bank, *supra* n. 2, at 103. Also, the ILO finds that "experiences of forced sex in childhood...increase the likelihood of...participating in [prostitution]." ILO, *HIV/AIDS and Work in a Globalizing World*, 2005, at 38.

[6] *See, e.g., Id.* at p. 5; ILO, *supra* n. 4 at 38, 47-49.

Legalization of prostitution gives men moral and social permission to practice prostitution, and hence, to demand more women and girls for commercial sexual exploitation ultimately leading to an increase in sex trafficking. Moreover, the sex industry creates a culture of male bonding through the collective abuse of women. Thus legitimizing prostitution as work commences a vicious cycle in which the sex industry expands, and increases the demand for sex trafficking victims. Prostitution not only harms prostituted women; it harms all women. It reinforces the degrading stereotype that women, by their inherent nature, are commodities or objects to be bought and sold, rather than persons with full human rights and dignity.

In order to promote gender equality, the UN, governments and civil society must take action to eradicate sexual violence and exploitation of women and girls. We urge the following actions:

1. Make specific and local recommendations not only about ending particular forms of male violence but on transforming systemic social and economic structures such as patriarchy and harmful economic systems that unremittingly disadvantage women.

2. Eliminate, through laws and policies, those economic, social, legal and political structures that make women vulnerable to traffickers, pimps and buyers such as poverty, systematic male violence against women, discriminating economic policies and structural adjustment programs, gender discrimination, and other forms of oppression such as racism.

3. Eliminate laws that structurally support women's subordination (e.g., dowry, unequal marriage, inheritance and property laws).

4. Decriminalize women and girls in prostitution, while promoting laws penalizing buyers, pimps, brothel owners, and other traffickers who contribute to the demand that fuels the global market for sexual exploitation.

5. Educate law enforcement and criminal justice officials to investigate and prosecute crimes perpetrated by traffickers, pimps, and buyers against victims of prostitution and trafficking.

6. Adequately fund and support services for survivors of international and domestic trafficking and prostitution, including exit programs with financial assistance, education and job training, employment opportunities, housing, health services, legal advocacy, residency permits, and language training.

7. Implement coherent national policies that explicitly denounce prostitution as a violation of women's human rights and as violence against women, and reject its legalization.

8. Reject the use of the misleading term "sex work," which minimizes the abuses and exploitation of prostitution and attempts to redefine it as an ordinary job, particularly for impoverished and marginalized women.

Governments must not use short-term economic measures, such as permitting and encouraging the proliferation of the sex industry, to address development and the feminization of poverty. Legitimization and normalization of the sex industry has a profoundly negative long-term impact on the human rights and dignity of all women and girls. Adopting such short-sighted policies prevents societies from achieving the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Note:
Statement supported and endorsed by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Armenian International Women's Association; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Dominican Leadership Conference; Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas; Grail; Gray Panthers; International Association of Schools of Social Work; International Council of Jewish Women; International Federation on Ageing; International Federation of Women Lawyers; International Federation of Women in Legal Careers; UNANIMA International; United States Committee for UNIFEM; Vivat International; World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations; World Movement of Mothers and World ORT Union.

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Statement submitted by 3HO Foundation, Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, Canadian Federation of University Women, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, Country Women Association of Nigeria, European Union of Women, European Women's Lobby, Femmes Afrique solidarité, General Arab Women Federation, International Alliance of Women, International Association for Women's Mental Health, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women Lawyers, International Women's Year Liaison Group, Korean Institute for Women and Politics, Pan Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Soroptimist International, Temple of Understanding, Women's Federation for World Peace, Women's International Zionist Organization, Women's World Summit Foundation and Worldwide Organization for Women, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

The Spanish Society for the Advancement of International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL), with the support of the Catalonian Agency for Cooperation to Development, adopted on 30 October 2006 the "Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace" as the culmination of a process of extensive consultations with Spanish civil society, including the organization of six expert seminars in different regions[1].

Following the adoption of the Luarca Declaration, the SSIHRL has continued the process of consultations with international civil society through the organization of conferences and expert seminars on the human right to peace in all regions of the world[2]. In February 2009 the SSIHRL will call for a World NGO Conference in Geneva to take stock of inputs received from international civil society and to adopt the final text of the Universal Declaration on the Human Right to Peace. The new text will thus better represent the aspirations of civil society as a whole. The text will be further submitted to the competent UN human rights bodies urging them to initiate the formal codification of the human right to peace.

On 15 March 2007 the Luarca Declaration was first submitted to the fourth session of the Human Rights Council in an oral statement by UNESCO Etxea on behalf of the SSIHRL. It has been complemented by written statements submitted to the fourth session (A/HRC/4/NGO/85, of 8 March 2007), the fifth session (A/HRC/5/NGO/9, of 6 June 2007) and the sixth session of the HR Council (A/HRC/6/NGO/33 and A/HRC/6/NGO/34 of 5 September 2007). They were endorsed by a growing number of non-governmental organizations.

Moreover, several parallel meetings were organized at the Palais de Nations in Geneva during the sessions of the HR Council. Firstly, on 15 March 2007, both the SSIHRL and the International Society of Human Rights (Frankfurt) called for an open Information Meeting on the Luarca Declaration. Secondly, on 16 March 2007 the SSIHRL organised a technical meeting with NGO and human rights experts with a view to building a common strategy for a world-wide campaign on the human right to peace. Thirdly, on 11 June 2007 both UNESCO Etxea and SSIHRL organised an additional parallel event focused on the relationship between peace and solidarity rights[3]. Fourthly, on 12 September 2007 a roundtable on the legal content of the human right to peace was organised by

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[1] The regional expert seminars took place in Oviedo (27-28 July 2006), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (17-18 August 2006), Bilbao (15-16 September 2006), Madrid (21-22 September 2006), Barcelona (28-29 September 2006) and Seville (13-14 October 2006).

[2] Conferences and expert seminars have already taken place in Geneva (NGO World Conference on Reform of International Institutions, November 2006); Mexico City (December 2006); Bogota, Barcelona and Addis Ababa (March 2007); Caracas and Santo Domingo (April 2007); Morelia (Mexico, 12 May 2007), Bogota (12 May 2007), Oviedo and Santa Fe (New Mexico, United States of America, 16-17 May 2007); Washington (14 June 2007), Nairobi (15 June 2007), Geneva (28 June 2007), Strasbourg (2-5 July 2007), Feldkirch (Austria, 31 August 2007), Geneva (11, 12 and 21 September 2007), Luarca (28 September 2007), Madrid (23 October 2007), Monterrey (1 November 2007) and México City (5 December 2007).

[3] Panellists were representatives of the World Organization Against Torture, the International Society of Human Rights, UNESCO Etxea and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

SSIHRL with collaboration of UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva [4]. And fifthly, on 21 September 2007 the SSIHRL organised the commemoration of the International Day of Peace at the Council Chamber of the Palais de Nations[5].

Women's peace movements have raised major issues on war around the world, notably when war and conflict situations have been increasing. Without doubt, these movements to wage peace have been able to accomplish significant and historical inroads in impacting public opinion. For instance, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on bringing a gender perspective into peace negotiations is an evident outcome of this movement.

Unfortunately, inequality is particularly gendered in war and conflict which severely compromises women's right to sustainable development. Even though women provide the unpaid service in times of peace such as search for water and the preparation of food and energy conservation, inequality is intensified during conflict since peacekeeping infrastructure is often destroyed.

Along with the deepening violence women experience during war, the long-term effects of conflict and militarization create a culture of violence that renders women especially vulnerable after war, because institutions of governance and law are weakened and social fragmentation is pronounced. The maintenance of peace and security is crucial for the protection of the human rights of women and girl children, as well as for the elimination of all forms of violence against them and of their use as a weapon of war[6].

The interest of involving women and girls in the peace processes often stems from their experiences of armed conflict, whether primarily as victims or as armed participants. They are aware of the potentials for transformation and reform in periods of peacemaking. As the Platform for Action of Beijing indicates "the girl child of today is the woman of tomorrow. The skills, ideas and energy of the girl child are vital for full attainment of the goals of equality, development and peace."[7]

Women have a unique opportunity to become organized in peace movements to focus on shared social experiences. Women have common barriers based on cultural relativism and thus create networks of solidarity that are able to cross invisible borders. The Forward-looking Strategies on Equality, Development and Peace of Nairobi states that women should be completely integrated into the development process in order to strengthen peace and security in the world. Thus, the realization

[4] Panellists included members of the International Federation of University Women, Geneva School of Diplomacy, the Chairperson of the WG on Mercenaries, the Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity and the former Chairperson of the HR Council.

[5] Statements were made by representatives of the following NGOs and IOs: Brahma Kumaris University, Geneva School of Diplomacy, Amnesty International (Geneva Section), UNIDIR, UNICEF and UNESCO.

[6] The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, *Action for Equality, Development and Peace*, Beijing, China, 1995, paragraph 12.

[7] The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, supra n. 7, paragraph 39.

of equal rights for women at all levels and in all areas of life contributes to the achievement of a just and lasting peace[8].

The most critical deterrent to the right to peace, however, is the inequality that remains in the mental attitudes and behaviour that perpetuate the notion of power that deprives others of the enjoyment of their basic human rights and human dignity. It follows that equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace. The preamble of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women highlights that "the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields."

As Article 14 of the 2006 Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace states:

"1. All persons belonging to vulnerable groups have the right to an analysis of the specific effects on enjoyment of their rights of the different forms of violence to which they are subject, and to the adoption of measures in that respect, including recognition of their right to participate in the adoption of those measures.

2. In particular, the specific contribution of women to the peaceful settlement of disputes shall be promoted".

We therefore urge the United Nations to involve more women in the promotion of international co-operation, the development of friendly relations among nations, the strengthening of international peace and disarmament[9]. We also urge all Member States of the United Nations to take meaningful steps to recognize the positive impact of gender approach in relation to the human right to peace. In this connection, we welcome the UN Security Council call to reaffirm the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and to stress the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution[10].

[8] Decade for women: Equality, Development and Peace, *Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women*, A/RES/40/108, 13 December 1985,UN General Assembly.

[9] Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women, Adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, Mexico, 19 June-2 July 1975.

[10] UN Security Council, S/RES/1325, 31 October 2000.

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Statement submitted by Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

07-65257 (E) 140108

Statement

We identify with passion the need for deliberate action to end the scourge of war which still inflicts hideous, ongoing suffering.

Within the Charter and Security Council Resolution 1325 the legal foundations exist to move beyond words to sustainable peace.

The fundamental purpose of the UN Charter is to prevent the scourge of war. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 strengthens this purpose.

The preamble of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 reaffirms the "important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision- making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution."

PROVISIONS UNDER CHAPTER VI FOR THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

Chapter VI, entitled "peaceful solutions of disputes," of the Charter of the United Nations, upholds the fundamental purposes of the Charter, advances the de-legitimization of war, and promotes respect for the rule of international law through the International Court of Justice.

A number of provisions have been established to bring about the peaceful settlement of disputes:

(i) The first provision is to counter conflict of interest in decision-making related to peaceful solutions of disputes

Decisions under Chapter VI, are constrained by Article 27 which reads that a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting. This provision present in Chapter VI is absent in Chapter VII and is, regrettably, consistently violated by the UN Security Council.

(ii) The second provision to bring about peaceful settlement of disputes is recourse, under Article 36, to the rule of international law, through the International Court of Justice: Article 36 reads: "legal disputes should as a general rule be referred by the parties to the International Court of Justice in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of the Court."

Chapter XIV complements Chapter VI in outlining the role of the International Court of Justice.

Under Chapter XIV, Article 92 states that the International Court of Justice shall be the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and under Article 93 all members of the UN are ipso facto parties to the statute of the International Court of Justice, and under Article 94, each member of the United Nations undertakes to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice in a case to which it is a party and under Article 96 there is the provision for the UN General Assembly, UN

Security Council and other organs of the UN to request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question.

Chapter VI of the Charter of United Nations must be strengthened and, in particular, it must be made mandatory for states to appear before the International Court of Justice, to accept its jurisdiction and to act on its decisions.

THE CHALLENGE OF CHAPTER VII

Chapter VII of the Charter contravenes its purpose to prevent the scourge of war. Unfortunately, under international law, an invasion of another state is deemed to be legal if the UN Security Council, under Chapter VII, deems that the necessary conditions required for a war to be "legal" have been met.

To prevent the scourge of war and to remove the conditions which are claimed to support the legality of war, the global community must definitively concur that the conditions that have been used to declare war to be legal must be abandoned.

THE CENTRAL ROLE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: UNITING FOR PEACE RESOLUTION

Under the Charter of the United Nations there is an important principle – the principle of sovereign equality; this principle is violated by the UN Security Council but respected by the UN General Assembly.

In 1951, when the UN Security Council was unable to come to an agreement, resolution 377 (V) entitled "Uniting for Peace" was passed by the UN General Assembly. The purpose of the resolution was to recognise the responsibility of the UN General Assembly to prevent the scourge of war. In the preamble of the Resolution is the following expression of the role given to the UN General Assembly:

"If the Security Council, because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members, fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in any case where there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, the General Assembly shall consider the matter immediately with a view to making appropriate recommendations to Members for collective measures, including, in the case of a breach of the peace or act of aggression, the use of armed force when necessary, to maintain or restore international peace and security. If not in session at the time, the General Assembly may meet in emergency special session within twenty-four hours of the request. Such emergency special session shall be called if requested by the Security Council on the vote of any seven members, or by a majority of the Members of the United Nations."

ADDITIONAL ROLE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: SETTING UP INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNALS

When the leader of any state, under any guise, including the misconstruing of Article 51- self defence, demonstrates defiance of the fundamental principles and peremptory norms established through the

UN system, the UN General Assembly must invoke article 22 which would permit the UN General Assembly to set up an international tribunal to judge a leader for contributing to crimes against the peace.

EXTENDING RESOLUTION 1325 TO APPLY TO THE PREVENTION OF WAR AND VIOLENT CONFLICT IN MAINTAINING TRUE SECURITY

If UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is to seriously be instrumental in preventing war and violent conflict, the resolution must recognize the larger spectrum reflected in maintaining true global security through the compliance with international peremptory norms reflected in the years of international instruments; these norms can be derived from international instruments that have the following objectives:

- to achieve a state of peace, and disarmament through reallocation of military expenses;
- to create a global structure that respects the rule of law and the International Court of Justice;
- to enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and ensure the right to development and social justice;
- to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, civil and political rights, social and cultural rights-- right to food, right to housing, right to safe drinking water and sewage, right to education and right to universally accessible not for profit health care system;
- to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, the respect for the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, and the reduction of the ecological footprint, and to move away from the current model of unsustainable and over-consumptive development.

Recommendations:

1. We call upon all governments to help prevent war by invoking the United Nations Charter's Chapter VI; urge that the conflict matter be transferred to the International Court of Justice, or for the responsibility to be transferred to the United Nations General Assembly under the uniting for peace resolution;

2. We urge the CSW to support the rephrasing of the Charter's Article 36 to read "legal disputes 'shall' rather than 'should as a general rule', be referred by the parties to the International Court Of Justice...";

3. We call upon members of the CSW to urge examination of Chapter VII, which condones conditional legitimization of war in contravention of the purpose of the United Nations Charter itself, with a view that it must be struck;

4. We urge the CSW to support the extension of Security Council resolution 1325 to include women's participation with respect to true security issues such as the prevention of environmentally-induced war and violent conflict;

5. We urge the CSW to call upon Governments to seriously address the contribution of militarism to perpetuation of the continuing threat of climate change — through emissions from the production of all weapons systems; military exercises; war games; weapons testing; military aviation; environmental warfare; troop transfer; military operations; waste generation; reconstruction afteracts of violent interventions etc. to greenhouse gas emissions.

All this we owe to the vision of humanity that inspired the UN Charter in its quest for the abolition of war and real equality.

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Statement submitted by To Love Children Educational Foundation International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

07-65269 (E) 170108

Statement

The theme for the Fifty-Second Commission on the Status of Women, "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women," starts with education of girls and women. The working assumption of our Non Governmental Organization is that along with financing the path to gender equality, empowerment is through a sustainable educational development policy. To Love Children Educational Foundation International Inc. (TLC) has founded a Micro Finance institution called Women Organization Micro Finance Education Network (WOMEN). WOMEN presents a variation on the micro loan success by including ongoing educational development opportunities to ensure business growth. To build empowerment once a loan is provided, an evaluation and monitoring system tracking the business learning needs for women minimizes failure.

WOMEN believes that its holistic and non-traditional educational approach to microfinance is the solution to changing the paradigm and breaking the cycle of poverty. WOMEN's founding fundamental precept is: The welfare of the woman customer and her family is paramount over any other need of the organization.

Micro-credit programs have come to realize that women are better credit risks and are more effective agents for the economic improvement of the family than men. WOMEN believes that focusing on women as customers for micro-loans, savings and other financial products, educating them in basic business practices, HIV/AIDS prevention, crisis management training, personal health management, and providing their at-risk girl child with an education should be a right, not a privilege.

While WOMEN will never absolutely require repayment of loans, we will strive to maintain an economically sustainable portfolio using sound lending practices. In addition, we will seek to minimize defaults and maintain positive financial success using a preference-to-lend approach based upon the community or group model. WOMEN recognizes that no group will be able to pressure or force any single woman from a group for nonpayment. Women's groups should learn business lessons from each other, collaborate on business projects, and when any woman is struggling to repay her loan help locate the solutions for her economic success. This is in addition to WOMEN's commitment to educate and to stand by any woman in need.

WOMEN's Model

Background

Mission of To Love Children: To educate the girl child in the developing world, by creating sustainable educational development opportunities that enable girls to break the cycle of poverty.

Case Study

The successful support and funding of Future Victory School (Uganda) sustainable development poultry project, initiated by the school in partnership with TLC from 2004-2005, provided a reliable

model for developing and sustaining a micro finance project for single mothers who test positive for HIV/AIDS. For WOMEN, being HIV-positive doesn't mean ignoring a woman's human potential. To Love Children's position statement wish is to open the debate on policy formulation. Our idea centers on the assumption that the foundation to ending poverty, employment, financing and empowering women, first needs a sustainable educational infrastructure that is tied into sustainable opportunity.

The most vulnerable groups in Africa are the girls whose parents have died of HIV/AIDS, and the mothers that remain are struggling for their daughters' best educational interests. These single mothers are further stigmatized due to their health insufficiency. To Love Children offers to this august Commission as solutions to this complex issue the following goals:

- Teach practical business skills of running a business to women affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Train women in 'Poultry Farming Methods' as one example in order to also promote health and nutrition.
- Demonstrate to women that they can remain independent by focusing on the financial development of women and girls regardless of their health status.
- Eradicate the stigmatization of HIV-positive women by creating national policy promoting micro financing for this class of women.
- Mount a national campaign so the society will learn to believe that women who are HIV-positive will be able to stand and perform.

Rural Outreach

Many stakeholders believe that large institutions, such as commercial banks, will take too long to reach rural areas and that support should be given to the many smaller microfinance institutions already located in rural areas. These stakeholders believe that the small institutions have a true desire to innovate and find ways to reach very poor agricultural communities and offer the best solution for rural microfinance. As a small microfinance organization, WOMEN will be well postured to reach rural areas quickly. Further, one of the driving motivators for WOMEN's existence is to provide lending, financial services and products, and education to those women most in need. WOMEN is prepared to work in the northern rural areas of Uganda where over 20 years of insurgency has created financial ruin on top of the other calamities resulting from war.

Poor women are traditionally underserved in terms of financial and educational services. WOMEN's customers will be extremely poor females in rural areas who often reside in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. These women are not in an economic position to secure funding from traditional financial institutions. Many may also be unable to secure funds from existing microfinance companies and may be considered "unbankable". The beneficiaries of this program will also include the girl children of women who receive micro-loans, who will take part in WOMEN's educational programs.

Project Implementation

A simple cost-benefit analysis done by To Love Children has determined that:

- This is a practical training and income generating initiative whose goal is to minimize cost and maximize profits and returns for women.
- The beneficiaries are involved at every stage of the process.
- Women are given the same opportunities as men.
- Policymakers as well as decision makers need to be sensitized to an education-based approach.
- TLC and beneficiaries receive ongoing training.
- A proper monitoring and evaluation system is put in place, to ensure that the project is self-sustaining.
- All data collected will first be approved by Institutional Review Boards and by the government to ensure all ethical precautions are taken to safeguard the women.

Conclusion

The key is effective and ethical evaluation and monitoring and education management, an education based approach to empowering woman that includes economic growth opportunities. Opportunities need to have a high cost-benefit ratio as well as be a practical solution in the 21st century marketplace. Women beneficiaries when united, are able to break the cultural silence and taboo about their status if infected with the HIV/AIDS virus. To Love Children believe that when women are given health prevention education, and micro business opportunities they can become avenues in obtaining empowerment. Empowerment occurs in the building of a sense of ownership for every woman. Empowerment that comes with education, and ethical concerns will not only reach the most vulnerable women but will have a positive effect on society as well.

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Statement submitted by Mothers' Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

07-65281 (E) 170108

Statement

Mothers' Union is a Christian membership-based organisation with 3.6 million members across 78 countries. Motivated by their faith, members run grassroots initiatives that support marriage, family life and flourishing relationships within communities. Members also lobby national governments and international bodies on issues encountered in their communities and this statement voices their experiences.

Overview

In 2008, the inequality of women persists in all societies. In failing to address this injustice, women continue to face education, health and social inequalities, physical and sexual violence, harmful cultural practices and other human rights violations. 'Gender equality' is certainly on the political agenda across the world but, in many cases, women have been labelled as a 'special interest group'.

A national budget is the policy instrument that sets out a government's priorities and the financing necessary to carry them out. 'Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women' is a key international policy priority, as enshrined in Millennium Development Goal 3. Generally, financing to achieve women's equality falls into 2 categories:

i) Funding initiatives that specifically promote women's equality
ii) Ensuring that national budgetary decisions promote women's equality and prevent women's inequality

National governments have a responsibility to prioritise women's equality in their budgets. Government financing also ensures sustainability and national ownership of achieving women's equality. In reality, there are financing gaps in many national economies, which are currently plugged by NGOs and the private sector. These groups play an essential role in providing women and communities with sustainable skills in industry, commerce, science, micro-finance and leadership, plus social and health education and services. However, this form of financing is often time-limited and subject to donor conditionalities.

Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) has developed over the last two decades with the aim of ensuring all governmental departments promote women's equality in their spending. It is argued that GRB is an essential tool because no budgeting area is 'gender neutral.' However, the analysis GRB provides needs to be used actively to change budgets and decision making where women's inequality is evident and it has been criticised for not withstanding political whims and fashions.[1]

[1] Sharp, Rhonda *Gender Responsive Budgets (GRBs) have a place in financing gender equality and women's empowerment.* UN Division for the Advancement of Women, Expert Group Meeting on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, 4 – 7 September 2007.
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/financing_gender_equality/ExpertPapers/EP.4%20Sharp.pdf

Most importantly, financing initiatives and GRB alone cannot prevent inequality - political will and societal change are also essential.

How does Mothers' Union finance for women's equality and empowerment?

Mothers' Union programmes successfully promote women's equality because their primary focus is upon relationships – and gender equality is about relationships. Women and girls cannot be taken out of their families and empowered in isolation, so Mothers' Union members run programmes that educate women, their families and their communities. Importantly, whilst challenging gender stereotyping, Mothers' Union programmes also affirm the roles of men and boys. In achieving women's equality healthy relationships will be able to flourish; and in sustaining healthy relationships, discrimination has no part.

Much evidence points to education as a key driver in promoting women's equality. Millennium Development Goal 3 uses 'the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education' as the indicator of the empowerment of women. Mothers' Union members in Australia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the West Indies have all identified lack of education and illiteracy as major social issues impacting their societies.[2]

Mothers' Union community-owned programmes demonstrate how education, in its many forms, promotes women's equality and empowerment. The Literacy and Development Programme in Burundi, Malawi and the Sudan provides adults, particularly women, with literacy and numeracy skills. Through participatory group discussions traditional gender roles are challenged and this has been vital in breaking down the inequalities women face. For example, women learners have taken more active roles in leadership and decision making processes and, ultimately, relationships have been improved within their homes and communities.

> "We now have more discussions in our homes and are allowed to take part in decision making and in buying things. Before we couldn't ask for money for things. Our husbands took us [as] a people who knew nothing. We now hug our husbands, before we were too scared… there is now a much better relationship between husbands and wives."
>
> Female learner, Malawi

Girls have also benefitted from the Programme where literacy circles have paid for their secondary school fees and saved them from early marriage.

> "Now we don't keep any girls from school. We all have to look after orphans and we also send them to school. We know the importance of girls to have an education."
>
> Female learner, Malawi

[2] Responses to questionnaire sent to Mothers' Union Provincial Presidents and Workers worldwide, August 2007.

The Family Life Programme mobilises community groups by actively promoting income generation, leadership roles for women, awareness of widows' rights, women's inheritance and land rights, and education of the girl child. The Programme also challenges pre-conceived ideas of gender roles and the low importance placed on educating females. The Programme demonstrates that inequalities can be broken down and the status of women improved through a small financial investment in mobilising communities and establishing forums for discussion.

> "Before I was not committed to work but the Family Life Programme has taught me lots of things... I talked with my wife and children and we shared ideas ... We planted grass for our cow, built an improved stove in the kitchen. Built terraces and dug trenches. There is now a big change because the soil is not getting eroded like before. Now my children go to school whereas before they would only sometimes go. We sit around the table to eat and talk together as a family."
>
> Steven, Sebei

Mothers' Union recommendations

Sufficient funding is not currently given to achieving women's equality, although the evidence is that such investment is affordable[3]. Financing should be directed in the following ways:

1. Financing for Millennium Development Goal 3

1.1 Governments must commit finances to achieve MDG3 if they have not already.

1.2 However, blanket financing of formal education alone does not automatically achieve women's equality. Saudi Arabia, for example, spends 6.5% GDP on education[4] but is ranked 61st out of 177 in the gender empowerment measure (GEM) rank[5]. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in comparison spends 5.5% GDP on education[6] yet ranks 16th in the GEM measure.[7]

2. Financing for community-owned social education and sustainable skills training

2.1 In light of point 1, financing should be committed to community education that provides both i) social education e.g. 'gender awareness' and health education; and ii) sustainable skills training.

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[3] Grown, C., Bahadur, C., Handbury, J. and Elson, D *The Financial Requirements of achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*. The Levy Economic Institute of Bard College, paper prepared for the World Bank, August 2006.

[4] http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_SAU.html.

[5] http://hdrstats.undp.org/indicators/279.html.

[6] http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/TIM/m002002/edspendrev2006.pdf.

[7] As 5.

2.2 Education must benefit both females and males of all ages to create change in communities.

2.3 Financing and resourcing need to come from both i) national governments, to ensure sustainability; and ii) those delivering programmes and sharing their expertise to ensure they are recognised as key stakeholders. However, funders and programme deliverers need to determine conditions of funding in partnership to ensure that they are realistic and not burdensome.

2.4 It is estimated that governments need to spend on average US$11 per capita to fund overall gender equality interventions[8] and Mothers' Union recommends that governments put a high proportion of this into social education and sustainable skills training.

3. Financing for gender responsive budgeting (GRB) and using it actively to prevent the inequalities it identifies

3.1 Governments should implement GRB to ensure that their national infrastructures enable women and girls to access education and training with ease, for example by providing appropriate sanitation facilities at schools and ensuring physical safety for girls on their journeys to and from school. GRB must be used to guide policy formation as well as being a measuring tool.

3.2 GRB should be implemented (if not already) in countries where MDG 3 has already been achieved but women's equality has not, for example in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, where girls out-perform boys in primary and secondary education and are over-represented in tertiary education[9] but women's equality has not been fully achieved, particularly in pay levels and leadership roles. Australia, however, provides a good working example - it has employed GRB over the last 2 decades (to varying degrees of success[10]) and is rated 3rd in the GEM ranking. Governments also need to invest in producing gender-disaggregated statistics on education as another measuring tool of inequality.

3.3 Women's equality in the developed world tends to be measured by pay levels, economic position and representation in leadership roles (although these categories apply across the whole world) and governments must continue to address these inequalities.

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[8] Ibid.

[9] http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000716/SFR10_2007v1.pdf.

[10] Sharp, Rhonda *Gender Responsive Budgets (GRBs) have a place in financing gender equality and women's empowerment.*

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Statement submitted by the Anglican Consultative Council, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

07-65293 (E) 170108

Statement

The Anglican Communion and its Faith Perspective

The Anglican Communion ("Communion") consists of 75 million Christians from 165 countries worldwide. More than half our members are women and girls who are especially grieved by the harsh consequences of conflict, poverty, violence, discrimination and the unexpected traumas of poorly anticipated natural disasters. We strive to ensure that no one is left out, and all have a voice and a place. The pursuit of this ideal serves as a sign and indicator of what humanity will be like when God's "will is done on earth."[1]

Our global mission is to: (i) proclaim the Good News of God's realm; (ii) teach, baptize and nurture new believers; (iii) respond to peoples' needs through loving service; (iv) break down unjust structures to maintain peace and justice; and (iv) strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and to sustain and renew the earth.

In this statement we share with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) the framework that informs the way we have lived out our faith as sisters. Central to our theology is the belief that if one part of our community suffers, the whole community suffers.[2] We are called to speak against injustice and "economic apartheid" of our times, to care for widows, orphans, aliens and the impoverished.

One hundred Anglican women shall participate in the 52nd session of the CSW. With them come a wealth of cultural diversity, experiences and lessons that are rooted in lived experiences from the rural, urban, indigenous and uprooted as well as the displaced/refugee communities.

The Participation and Contribution

In preparation for this 52nd session, we reflected and realized that our theology is not lived out in the ways in which our national budgets are examined and policies developed. There is a profound imbalance of funding for programmes which benefit women and shape their lives. Yet we know from experiences and statistics that women and girls are the poorest, most oppressed and violated: with limited access to education and natural resources like water, energy, land and yet are victims of sex trade and "slave labour" markets.

We cannot ignore the stunning increase worldwide in violence against women. Particularly disturbing is the use of rape and sexual violence as a tool of warfare. As a tool for empowerment, we advocated for gender policy in the Communion.

Accomplishments

Our efforts in the Communion have yielded resolution ACC-1331[3] to adopt and affirm the work of the Anglican Women's Network; acknowledging the MDG

[1] Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Rowan Williams, TEAN Report; Boksburg-Johannesburg, March 2007.

[2] Opening remarks by Katherine Jefferts Schori: TEAN Conference; Boksburg-Johannesburg, March 2007.

[3] The Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) Resolution ACC-1331.

Goal of equal representation (50 per cent) of women in decision-making at all levels and establishing a women's desk. Every one of the 38 Provinces is being pressed to create and/or activate a "woman's desk" to assure serious attention to issues which affect women and girls — both within the church and in the surrounding secular society at large. Gender Desks have been set up in Canada, the Sudan, Ireland, northern India, Pakistan and the United States of America.

The International Anglican women's network (IAWN) is dealing with gender-based violence. Women live in fear of being raped on water and food lines. In October 2007 it was on record that a total of 351 cases of rape were reported in North Kivu province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. This represents a 60 per cent increase from August.[4] In support of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and as a direct response to the situation, a major conference was held by IAWN to address gender-based violence. Financing still needs to be allocated to victims to cover both their physical and psycho-social treatment as IAWN continues to advocate for women to be spiritually empowered to live their lives with dignity.

In Canada and Australia an international programme of men dedicated to changing other men's violent attitudes and behaviour patterns towards women and girls has been active.

We have created a website: www.iawn.anglicancommunion.org which is reaching millions of women across the globe and enlisting them in the quest for peace and justice and a blog for the CSW.

We note how the current economic theories have failed to incorporate/recognize domestic work of women. This gender resource gap is particularly severe for countries that have heavy External Debt burden as most of the funds are redirected from financing the social services where women's needs predominate, to servicing debt.

In a bid to build our capacity we are holding training in economic literacy and analysis of national budgets and macroeconomic policies to support the reproductive and care economy. A session on Gender Budgeting was facilitated by UNIFEM. One of the direct outcomes of that session was the development of a tool kit by the Anglican Women Empowerment (AWE).

One other aspect of "financing for gender equality and empowerment" we are directly involved in is microfinance. Not having access to start-up or expansion funds is an enormous barrier to women's entrepreneurship endeavours. However microcredit is now seen to disempower some women and is therefore being looked at from a more critical perspective. Some studies show that poor women suffer conflicting demands for the microfinancing they receive.

However the discovery of websites on sponsoring new business undertakings or expansions has brought the concept of microcredit into reality for Anglican women. Endeavours such as the launching of a ceramics business in Mexico and having better feed for raising healthier pigs in Indonesia are examples of microinvestment opportunities which then assist these women entrepreneurs into better lives even for their families.

[4] UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) October 11, 2007.

Recommendations and Commitments

At the United Nations fifty-second session, we call for:

- The Creation of an Independent Women Specific Agency but with raised status and budget.
- The use of women's mechanisms to inform the development and design of all macroeconomic policies for financing development.
- The development and implementation of fiscal policies in the reproductive and care economy.
- Women's empowerment and negotiation skills through economic literacy for effective participation in economic decision-making in a gender-mixed environment.
- The promotion and the observance of the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) that is binding on countries to stem violence against women.
- The provision of finances for treatment and psychosocial care and infrastructure for post-rape victims and their families.
- The legislation against sex tourism/industry and commercialization of girls by the fashion industry.

The Anglican Women and the rest of the Communion Commit to:

- Fight cultural values that commercialize and make girls vulnerable and examine value systems at home and in the church.
- Facilitate wider information dissemination on gender concerns.
- Modify legislation within the church and the community to reflect better policies for women especially ordination of women.
- Apply gender budgeting knowledge in all church budgets.
- Focus on quality of female leadership as one way to move beyond parity.
- Benchmark and measure impact of gender programmes.
- Raise funds for women to attend international conferences, particularly the United Nations.
- Examine scripture and use it as a basis to fight patriarchy.

Strengthen Peace and Justice Initiatives by:

- Focusing in areas of conflict and human displacement.
- Highlighting issues of refugee women and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in position papers and conduct press conferences in partnership with governments.
- Speaking against human rights violations and the use of rape and sexual violence as a tool of war.
- Providing appropriate coordination of resources, practical and theological, from within the Anglican Communion and relief for refugees and displaced persons.

On maternal/girls and child mortality we shall continue to:

- Develop awareness and encourage dialogue with young people about HIV and AIDS and promote adolescent health education as an entry point to safe motherhood.
- Use our well-organized groups to assist in education and awareness building.
- Advocate for adequate transportation/infrastructure for access to medical facilities.
- Address domestic violence also to ensure women have healthy pregnancies and live full lives.
- Develop training for Early Childhood Development and for parents/caregivers.

Conclusion

Finally, we note that this is not just about money to finance gender and women's empowerment but the need for political will and change of mindset of those allocating resources and who do not seem to know the benefit of financing gender!

> "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

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Statement submitted by Society for Women and AIDS in Africa, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

07-65381 (E) 160108

Statement

Despite many noble interventions aimed at ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women, women and girls continue to have much less access to resources than their male counterparts, particularly when it comes to facing the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The abysmal allocation of resources directed specifically to civil society programs targeting women and girls is disappointing. It is also worrying that such funds, when available, remain largely in the hands of northern non-profit organizations to the detriment of the southern ones. This lack of resources limits the creation and implementation of locally initiated programs that would ensure a much more sustainable approach to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls from the global South.

Over-whelming evidence indicates to us that women and girls remain the poorest among the poor, the most uneducated and enjoy less access to medical treatment and support. Women are severely under-represented in decision-making processes and leadership positions, particularly when it comes to budgeting at the governmental level. Gender-neutral financial decisions globally, nationally and locally are facilitating the perpetuation of this unacceptable status quo.

We understand that economic dependency on men and socio-cultural factors as well as poverty, conflict and illiteracy have conspired to disempower women, rendering them behind men when in comes to enjoying basic needs as well as personal autonomy. The basic right to have control over one's own sexual safety has often been taken away from women and girls. Systemic gender violence in the forms of early marriage, trafficking, genocidal rape and other forms of sexual abuse, as well as economic and even legislative violence puts women in positions where they are at the highest risks of being HIV infected.

In the political Declaration on HIV/AIDS of the General Assembly of June 2006, the governments noted that HIV/AIDS is "an unprecedented human catastrophe" and that it "constitutes a global emergency and poses one of the most formidable challenges to the development, progress and stability of our respective societies and the world at large, and requires an exceptional and comprehensive global response."

A global response cannot be "comprehensive" or successful until it specifically includes women and girls in its design. We welcome all the effort that has been made to address the pandemic and we recognize that some significant progress has been made in some areas. But the reality is that women and girls have less access than their male counterparts to medical attention, retroviral drugs, food and sexual education. Furthermore, insufficient attention has been given to initiating research and programs that will specifically target women and girls and will empower them to be actively involved in their own sexual safety.

Despite extremely limited resources, women around the globe, in particular in Africa, have found enough strength, passion and creativity to take on an active role regarding HIV/AIDS. Women have taken dramatic steps, towards identifying their specific needs, concerns, some best practices and have initiated a number of valuable advocacy networks, grass roots level programs and other mechanisms

designed to achieve gender equality when it comes to HIV/AIDS with the ultimate goal of halting the epidemic altogether.

Since the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, the international community, in particular the UN, has formally registered its concern for the inequality of women and girls and has been increasingly responsive to it. We recall the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 3, "to promote gender equality and empower women," Goal 5, "improve maternal Health" and Goal 6 "combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases," The Beijing Platform for Action and the following agreed conclusions of the CSWs emphasize that funding has to be identified and mobilized from all sources and across all sectors to promote women and girls access to education, health, economic empowerment, safety and human rights in general.

We welcome these words and recognize that some advances have been made wherever and whenever substantial resources have been allocated. But greater effort must be made when allocating financial resources across the globe, to ensure that women and girls' needs are met and that they are included in all decision making processes that concern them in any form, shape or manner. Progress towards achieving gender equality across the world would ultimately benefit not only women and girls, but will enhance the well-being of the entire global community as well.

Therefore we urge the international community and governments to ensure adequate financial resources to:

1. Integrate women in decision making processes from the local to the highest levels of policy making, in particular when it comes to budgeting, as a means to ensure that women's particular needs will be properly addressed.

2. Integrate women, in particular women living with HIV/AIDS, in all decision-making processes designed to address the pandemic of HIV/AIDS at local, national and international level.

3. Adequately fund existing mechanisms, especially those led by local women, and create new ones when necessary that promote gender equality at all levels, in particular:

   - Providing education for girls and women.

   - Promoting economic empowerment of women.

   - Ensuring that women and girls have access to the basic needs: housing, food, potable water and health services.

   - Ensuring safety for all women and girls and firmly prosecuting the perpetuators of crimes of gender violence in any shape or form.

4. Allocate more resources in the fight against HIV/AIDS aiming at prevention and universal access to antiretroviral drugs and care and support in general, in particular for women and girls, with a focus on those mechanisms that will ensure that women have the capacity to control their own sexual safety; and that address the specific reproductive and sexual needs and concerns of women and girls. These include:

   - Female condoms.
   - Microbicides.
   - Mother-to-child transmission.
   - Science-based preventive education geared towards women and girls.
   - Psychosocial and emotional care for HIV positive women and girls.
   - HIV/AIDS medical and scientific research that keeps at its center the female body.
   - Conferences, networks, organizations or any mechanisms that allow women to share experiences, new concerns and best practices.

5. Ensure adequate human and financial resources, in the event of armed conflict and during peace processes, to implement those policies and support existing mechanisms that focus on the needs of women and girls specially when it comes to:

   - Ensuring safety of women and girls in refugee camps and their access to all services, special medical treatment, in particular when it comes to sexual and reproductive care.
   - Providing psychosocial and emotional care of women and girls affected in any way by conflict. In particular ensuring the reintegration of girls and women soldiers, and those subject to forced prostitution or genocidal rape.
   - Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

Further, we encourage the international community and governments to:

1. Integrate in the budgeting process systematic evaluations on how "gender-neutral" policies may affect women differently than men and address any further asymmetry among men and women and boys and girls that those policies might bring upon.

2. Encourage civil society and multinationals to include programs and activities that promote gender equality and equal access to resources for women and girls.

3. Promote partnerships with and financial support of existing community-based and women-initiated programs, and promote the creation of new ones when necessary, that aim at

achieving gender equality, in order to encourage the emergence of local female leadership and to better ensure the sustainability of those programs.

We strongly believe that empowered, educated and healthy women and girls will benefit the entire community and help create a strong, stable society and a prosperous economy and we are fully committed to work towards that goal.

We support all implementation of economic, social and security policies that keep human rights at the center as a priority. Our NGOs are ready to partner with governments in the implementation or creation, when necessary, of such policies that will do so while supporting gender equality in all ways, in particular when it comes to sexual and reproductive rights.

Note: Statement endorsed by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: FEMvision; Grail; Human Lactation Center; International Council of Jewish Women; International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse; People's Decade of Human Rights Education; Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association; and World Federation for Mental Health.

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Statement submitted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1

07-65850 (E) 160108

Statement

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., an organization committed to empowerment of women locally, nationally and globally, welcomes consideration of the theme Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at its 52nd session.

Economic development is one of the five major programmatic thrusts of the Sorority's programme, along with Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement.

The Sorority notes that, although a number of international conferences and declarations have recognized gender equality and women's empowerment as key to achieving sustainable development, practical initiatives for effective implementation frequently have been lacking.

As noted by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, "commitments have been made on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women by Governments at the international level, including through the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), the Millennium Summit (2000), the Monterrey Consensus (2002); and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005). However, limited progress has been made in channeling and allocating resources to translate these commitments into action."

While a number of Governments have taken initiatives to integrate gender perspectives into their national budgets aimed at reflecting the needs of women as well as men, there have been, as yet, insufficient resources devoted to adequately supporting policies and programmes that promote the advancement of women.

Furthermore, women in all parts of the world have been largely under-represented among the primary decision makers in financial markets and institutions. As a result, the issues of greatest concern to women are often marginalized in policy processes and decision-making at both the government and private sector levels.

We draw attention to the fact that, in addition to public finance and donor funding, funds and foundations have been established to raise resources for activities designed to promote gender equality. These include women's development funds that have been set up in many countries to fund local, national and regional organizations working on these goals.

Delta recognizes that financing for gender equality and empowerment of women is both a critical and complex undertaking, the characteristics of which vary from country to country and region to region. Yet, it is one that needs to be urgently addressed on all fronts and at all levels.

Women, especially those in the poorest and most marginalized sectors, live in disadvantaged conditions that limit the free exercise of their rights and their capacity for development. Swift action is needed to address their needs.

While we understand that micro-credit alone cannot eliminate the barriers women face in accessing markets and financial resources, we nonetheless recognize it as a vehicle to empower women and their families by making available low-cost loans to small, women-run businesses. Delta is cooperating with institutions working in this field. The Sorority recently provided funds to Opportunity International to assist them in awarding micro-loans to women in Ghana.

The impact of economic inequality is exacerbated when women lack access to basic services. It is in this context that the Sorority is also working to provide clean water to selected local schools in Kenya and, through the National Council of Women, funding the construction of wells in some local communities in Ghana.

We look forward to the discussions at CSW52, especially inasmuch as it is the first time that the Commission has specifically addressed the issue of financing for gender equality and empowerment of women. The deliberations provide a unique opportunity to broaden the dialogue on this most important topic and an opportunity to forward the policy recommendations required to accelerate implementation of existing commitments, including those in the Beijing Platform for Action.

Equally, we look forward to advancing the debate during the CSW52 review of the agreed conclusions on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building. We specifically encourage the examination of ways to increase the role of women in negotiations, peace talks and post-war reconstruction and planning, as well as follow up to the other recommendations contained in the resolution.

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Statement submitted by International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

07-65892 (E) 170108

Statement

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers has analysed the priority theme of the 52nd C.S.W. Session — Financing for Gender Equality and empowerment of women — and considers that the increase of economic and social inequality, either between or inside countries, obstructs the development of Human Rights and generates new social conflicts.

Poverty still has the face of a woman of a less developed country and affects millions of women, making impossible their personal autonomy, and increasing their vulnerability and risk of suffering from all kinds of violence, from domestic and family abuse to sexual and labour exploitation.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers warns of the persistence of the fact, denounced in 1995 by the Beijing Platform for Action, that in countries with economic adjustment programs, privatisation of public services and reduction of social programs, women are responsible for new obligations to avoid the effects of the reduction of public social budgets on their own families. Particularly women in rural areas and female migrant workers suffer in a major way from these effects since they are forced to support a heavier burden of non-paid work.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers considers it vital to study in depth the complex, political, social and economic phenomena inherent to globalization in order to know how to utilize globalization in the promotion of Women's Human Rights.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers thinks that urgent measures should be taken by the international community in order to reduce the weight of external debt on the least developed countries, either by cancelling the debt for those countries whose people reach misery, or by fulfilling the commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of the Gross National Product of the developed countries to Official Development Assistance.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers regards as fundamental that all Governments as well as national and international economic and financial institutions review the procedure of creating National Accounting systems in order to recognise and account for the economic value of women contribution in wealth production with their non-remunerated labour, especially domestic and family work.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers believes that it is indispensable to integrate a gender perspective in the evaluation of economic and social policies, namely by the adoption of gender sensitive budgets, in order to make women fully participate in all economic, social and political decision, and consequently achieve a real and effective women empowerment.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers debated last October in Lisbon (Portugal) the theme "Women, Wars and Law" and, on the subject of the 52nd C.S.W. Session review theme, has concluded that it is essential for all States to implement National Action Plans in order to put into practice the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers considers that all legal texts of International Humanitarian Law should be interpreted and applied with a gender perspective, meaning that the different impacts that wars have upon women and men should be taken in consideration, in order to reduce the grade of violence against women.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers considers it indispensable that all military and police personnel involved with Peace-keeping Missions should receive an education on a gender sensitive International Humanitarian Law.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers believes that the spread of the International Humanitarian Law favours respect for Human Rights.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers appeals to all States to effectively engage in the accomplishment of the International Criminal Court mandate.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers denounces the fact that the impunity of the perpetrators of the atrocities of war or of Human Rights violations has its origin in political and economic interests.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers warns that wars are sought for the profit that results from the weapons trade, from the reconstruction of devastated countries and from the exploitation of the resources of those countries.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers considers that the corporations and collective persons that are the perpetrators of economic aggression leading to war should be held criminally responsible for their acts.

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Statement submitted by American Psychological Association, Associated Country Women of the World, Global Action on Aging, Gray Panthers, International Council of Jewish Women, International Council of Psychologists, International Federation on Ageing, Simply Help, World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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07-65898 (E) 170108

Statement

As we consider "Financing for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women," it is critical to address the threshold issue of identity documentation.

Even when financing is available, there are barriers which may prevent women of all ages from accessing the resources. The particular barrier we are addressing is that of identity documentation (ID). Many programs which provide financing, health benefits, social services, pensions, etc. require documentation of eligibility requirements: citizenship, age, status, and/or relationship. Without such proof a woman is ineligible for the benefits. Inheritance is another area where proof of identity and relationship are requirements.

Identity documentation is required to exercise one's voting rights. Documentation is also required for various government licensing, for example, driver's license, vocational and business licenses.

Furthermore, the lack of documentation is a barrier to mobility, such as for migration and family re-unification. The lack of mobility could hinder a woman's opportunities for employment and family support. Mobility may also be critical in escaping abusive situations.

There are many circumstances that could result in women of all ages being without documentation. Refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons may no longer have their original documents in their possession. Women in societies without formalized documentation systems may have never had documents. Women in war zones or in areas of political or other governmental instability may be unable to acquire or access documents. Women born before their governments developed formal systems may never have been documented.

Therefore, we urge governments to insure that their systems of registration and documentation are adequate. In addition, to address the needs of those currently without documentation, we appeal to governments to develop new or different methods of recognizing identity and eligibility.

We call upon a body within the United Nations to review and identify examples of good working systems and to develop models that states could adapt and adopt.

The entire subject of identity documentation can be considered as a human rights issue. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 December, 1948), Article 15 #1 states that everyone has the right to a nationality.